

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 7th February 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903

Indian immigrants in South Africa.

One of the avowed causes of the Boer war was that the Boers oppressed and ill-treated the Indian immigrants in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. In the beginning of the war Mr Chamberlain said that with the defeat of the Boers the oppression of the Indian immigrants would come to an end. But now that the Boers have been defeated and the Boer land has been brought under British rule, the oppression continues as hard as before, and, in many places, even harder. A petition was submitted to the Colonial Secretary to save the Indian immigrants from oppression in South Africa, and in reply he proffered hopes regarding its removal. But when in South Africa the English colonists asked his advice as to how to best drive out Indians from their midst, he secretly advised them to object to the settlement of Indians in South Africa not on the ground of their being Asiatics, but on the ground that South Africa is not a fit habitation for Indians. But the word "Asiatic" includes the Japanese; and the diplomatic Englishman is afraid of offending the great Asiatic whose friendship is sorely needed by Great Britain for maintaining its prestige in China and the Pacific Ocean. During Mr. Chamberlain's term of office Indians have been driven out of the Australian continent and they are now going to be ousted from South Africa. An Englishman is free to live and travel in any part of India, but an Indian, who is ruled by the same King as the Englishman, must not settle in any English Colony or freely travel there. He can go there only as a cooly, but he must return when the term of his contract expires. Is there nobody who can remove this oppression? Will not the Emperor or his representative in India do justice to the Indians? The Indians should waste no time in raising a violent agitation, loud enough to reach the ears of the Sovereign. The Government of Cape Colony has recently passed a law, about which the following notification has appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette*:—

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTIFICATION.

No. 270.—*The 27th January 1903.*—The following Resolution issued by the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture is published in the *Calcutta Gazette* for general information:—

"No. 2—2-2, dated Calcutta, the 16th January 1903.

"RESOLUTION—By the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department."

"THE Government of India have received intimation from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India that the Government of Cape Colony has passed an Act similar to the 'Immigration Registration Act, 1901,' issued by the Commonwealth of Australia, extracts from which were published in Resolution No. 13—38-2, dated 9th May 1902. The Act will come into force from the 30th January 1903.

2. Copies of the Act have not yet been received, but it is understood that under it immigrants will be required to write satisfactorily an application in some European language, and its effect will no doubt be practically to exclude altogether from the Colony Indians of the labouring and petty trading classes. The Governor-General in Council requests all Local Governments and Administrations to take steps to make the information generally known, and to warn intending emigrants at the port of embarkation of the risks they incur in proceeding to the Colony."

What an excellent method this to keep Indians out of South Africa! Lord Curzon knows that there is not another nation on the face of the earth as fervently loyal as the Indian. But alas! This is the reward of his full-hearted loyalty!!

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 27th, 1903.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th January publishes the same complaints as are contained in paragraph 5 of this report.
Dacoity in Kishorganj, Mymensingh.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Jan. 28th, 1903

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 28th January says that the arrest of the thief who was stealing goods from a shop in Sujaganj in Berhampore points to the usefulness of a careful watch and ward by the police, for which the writer has been clamouring for some time. If the constable Hamidad Khan had not gone about his rounds on the night of the theft, the thief could not probably have been apprehended. It ought, therefore, to be a point with the authorities to reward the policemen who properly discharge their duties and punish those who do not. For, in no other way can an efficient discharge of their duties by the police be secured. Hamidad Khan's claim to promotion has been long overlooked. He should get some substantial reward this time.

The authorities should also carefully consider the case of Krishna Chandra Das, in whose house much stolen property has been recently discovered.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI.

4. Some correspondents writing in the same paper from Haripur in the Kandi subdivision of the Murshidabad district say that Bani Kantha Rai, Collecting Panchayet of the village, against whom a complaint of oppression was made some time ago, is getting a certificate signed by his relatives, debtors and others who are under obligations to him, giving him a good character. The authorities who are about to make an enquiry into the complaint should not be misled by this certificate, which is not signed by any independent villager.

5. The Kishorganj correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January complains of the serious recrudescence of crime within the Kishorganj sub-division of the Mymensingh district. The strenuous efforts of Babu Banku Behari Singha, late Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj, were for sometime successful in suppressing the crime to a certain extent. But with the arrival of Mr. Bonham-Carter as District Magistrate of Mymensingh, Banku Babu's strong hand was taken off. Mr. Bonham-Carter gave the police and Deputy Magistrates to understand that he did not like cases against *budmashes* under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and during the time he remained in Mymensingh he acquitted a large number of the *budmashes* who had appealed against sentences passed on them by the lower Court. Then again a large number of prisoners was released on the Delhi Darbar day. In consequence of all this the *budmashes* reared their heads even before Banku Babu left Kishorganj.

The following are some of the cases of daring theft and dacoity which have occurred within a short time:—

(1) One day the *budmashes* got the information that Banku Babu had Rs. 2,000 in his possession in Kishorganj town. Banku Babu went to a mufassal village, a distance of 10 miles. That very night the *budmashes* entered into the bed room in his house in Kishorganj town, but failed to discover the money. They then went to the village to which Banku Babu had gone, but failing to acquire the two thousand rupees there also, they went away with his office box and keys.

(2) Another day some *budmashes* entered into the room in which Babu Gauri Kanta Ray, a mukhtar of Kishorganj, was sleeping, dealt a severe blow at his forehead with a *dao*, and broke open all the boxes in the room, but failed to get anything. Gauri Babu died of the wound after three hours.

(3) Three days after this occurrence, the *budmashes* broke open Babu Kailas Chandra De's iron-chest and went away with property worth Rs. 2,200 in cash and ornaments.

(4) The iron-chests of Babu Giris Chandra Chakravarti and Krishna Chandra Raut, pleaders, were also attacked on two different days, but fortunately to no effect.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

Serious crimes in Kishorganj.
Mymensingh district.

(5) One night the *budnashes* entered the room in which Babu Bhairab Chandra Ray, pleader, and his wife were sleeping, and struck a blow with a *dao* which fell on the foreheads of both of them. Nothing serious however happened. Bhairab Babu had Rs. 1,000 in his iron-chest that day. That very night the dacoits tried to attack the houses of two other pleaders.

(6) Within the last four weeks some dacoits have stolen Rs. 2,000 from the Post Office in the Katiail village after having cut the throat of the Post Officer and beaten the postman.

(7) In the last rainy season a number of dacoits attacked Messrs. David and Company's jute godown in Niklidampara, severely beat the guards, and went away with an iron chest and some money.

(8) Shortly before the last Durga Puja, a number of dacoits attacked the house of a milkman in the Kanihari village with torches in their hands and arms on their persons.

(9) Cases of incendiarism are also occurring.

It is hoped that the serious nature of the situation of the place will attract the notice of the Inspector-General of Police and the Lieutenant-Governor.

6. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 30th January, writing from Vikrampur-Baultoli in the Dacca district, says that a young Kayastha, named

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

A cooly case.

Jogendra Chandra De, being on the look out for some employment, was sometime ago decoyed from Kalighat near Calcutta by a cooly recruiter and sent to a tea-garden in Assam. The recruited man has lately written a letter from the Baisahari tea-garden, post office Selang, subdivision Jorhat, district Sibsagar, to his maternal grandmother, in which he says that he was fraudulently recruited and sent up to the tea-garden named above, where he has now to work as a cooly, and that the manager of the garden has given him the option to repay him Rs. 125, the cost of his recruitment and thereby purchase his release or to serve out the term of his contract.

As Jogendra's relatives are poor men, they can never hope to purchase his release at such a price, and considering the work in which he has been employed, it is doubtful if he will live to serve out his contract.

The editor asks the Chief Commissioner of Assam to look into the case, and, like his predecessor, Mr. Cotton, to earn the thanks of the public by procuring the release of this unfortunate cooly.

7. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st January says that a dacoity was recently committed in the house of a potter of Khanyan within the jurisdiction of the Pandua thana in the Hooghly district. The dacoits were about a dozen in number, and they took away property worth two hundred rupees. The potter and his wife were severely ill-treated.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 31st, 1903.

The Inspector-General of Police should remove the panic which has been created in these parts by the occurrence of frequent dacoities. Ladies of respectable families do not now sleep at night in their own houses for fear of dacoits, but seek shelter with their poorer neighbours. People are also very unwilling to give information about dacoits for fear of being persecuted.

8. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 1st February says that everybody will be astonished to hear of *gunda* oppression in the heart of Dacca town. But a case of such oppression actually occurred the other day.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 1st, 1903.

A certain respectable gentleman was coming out of the house of Babu Sris Chandra Das of Banglabazar at 11 P.M. on the night of the 27th January last, when he was attacked by three *gundas* on the very steps of Sris Babu's house. On his coming forward to strike the men with his stick, they drew out weapons, and the gentleman saved himself by running back into the house. If such oppression be possible in the heart of a town like Dacca, it is not difficult to imagine what goes on in the mufassal.

9. The same paper says that, according to a correspondent of another paper, the poorer residents of Baluchar in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district are finding it hard to live in safety in consequence of the conduct of the village chaukidars, who are now constantly engaged in

DACCA PRAKASH.

Chaukidars aiding crime in a village in the Dacca district.

aiding others in house-breaking and theft. The most respectable people of this village live away from home, and the few that stay at home often support the chaukidars. The result is that the situation has become intolerable to the oppressed residents

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 2nd, 1903.

10. A Pabna correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd February says that a most horrible murder was lately committed in that town. A boy of Dhara-

A murder in Pabna town.

nidhar Pramanik, aged about 9 or 10 years, went out one Saturday morning with a pice to make some purchase in the bazaar and never returned home. After five days' search his dead body was discovered in a *doba* close to the bazaar with a piece of cloth tied round its neck and divested of the ornaments which the boy wore when alive. The motive of the murder was certainly theft of the ornaments.

Shortly after the murder, the perpetrator of the crime offered to sell the ornaments to a goldsmith at a low price. This aroused some people's suspicion, and information was sent to the police. But the police at first made light of the matter and refused to move, but after much entreaty sent a constable with the informant. About this time the dead body was discovered. A man has been arrested on suspicion and a strong body of circumstantial evidence is forthcoming against him.

After the discovery of the dead body, some illiterate people were heard to say that it would be fortunate for Dharanidhar if he can escape only with the loss of his son, for the police, in order to extort some money from him, might say that it was he himself who accidentally killed his son by administering to him some severe castigation by way of punishment for some boyish offence.

The murder has created a panic in the town and people are alarmed for their children.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SUHRID,
Jan. 24th, 1903.

11. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 24th January says that sometime ago

The mukhtars and the Magistrate of Noakhali town.

the Magistrate of Noakhali issued a notice asking the mukhtars of the town to submit lists of their movables within the 20th December. The notice also contained such instructions as that the lists should be verified by police enquiry, &c. For this reason the mukhtars have not submitted the lists, and have consequently been disentitled to become securities for others. Touts and villagers are now becoming securities, and people are being put to great difficulty and expense in this matter. It is a matter of wonder that touts and villagers are being allowed to become securities, while mukhtars who pay the income-tax are not being allowed the privilege. Does the Magistrate enquire about the worth of the touts and villagers before they are allowed to become securities?

SUHRID,

12. The same paper says that on account of the transfer of Charu Babu,

Block in the Noakhali Criminal Court.

Sub-Deputy Magistrate, and an increase in the number of cases in the Noakhali sadar, the District Magistrate has ordered that police cases occurring within the jurisdiction of the Begamganj thana should be tried in the Feni Criminal Court. But had he been aware of the long distance which separates Begamganj from Feni he would never have issued this order. The block can be removed by the appointment of a Sub-Deputy Magistrate or by arousing the sleeping Honorary Bench to activity. Where is the harm in adding one or two members to the Bench?

RANGALAYA,
Jan. 23th, 1903.

13. Referring to the withdrawal of the case which was instituted in

The prosecution of a Press manager in Calcutta.

the Calcutta Police Court against the Manager of the Nabya Bharat Press for publishing a paper called the *Sudha*, the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 28th January asks, who will compensate the manager for the unnecessary trouble and expense to which he was put? Government entertains a large number of highly paid law officers, and should it not have consulted with them before instituting the prosecution?

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

A tea-garden case in the Sylhet district.

28th January says that sometime ago a cooly named Gopalghar belonging to the Kekragul tea-garden complained to Mr. Salkeld, the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj in the Sylhet district, that Mr. Lardon, the Manager of the garden, had murdered his wife. On enquiry, Mr. Salkeld found that it was a case of suicide, and that Mr. Lardon was the victim of a conspiracy among the coolies. Mr. Salkeld therefore dismissed the case against Mr. Lardon and committed the complainant and twelve witnesses to the sessions on the charges of having brought a false case and given false evidence. People naturally look on cases like this with suspicion. In cases between natives and Europeans, the European Judges guide themselves by a settled principle. The principle is this: that as the number of Europeans is very small in this country they should by all means be protected when complained against by natives, and that unless exemplary punishments are awarded to those natives who conspire to put Europeans under difficulties, their residence in this country cannot be safe. In the case in question, if Gopalghar's wife had really committed suicide, what could be the motive of the complainant and the twelve witnesses in accusing their master and supporter, who was also a European, of having murdered her? It is unnatural that a number of poor garden coolies who are dependent on their powerful European master for the supply of even their smallest needs should wantonly conspire to put him in danger. The Chief Commissioner of Assam should institute a searching enquiry into the matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

Mr. Skinner, late Officiating Magistrate of Jessore.

15. The same paper contains two stories illustrative of the kindness of Mr. Skinner, late Officiating Magistrate of Jessore town.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA.

16. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January takes exception to

A European lightly punished for an attempt at murder.

the infliction by the Magistrate of Poona of such light punishment as a fine of Rs. 60 on Robert Foster, the man who was charged with having attempted to murder a servant of another European whom he had suspected to be in intrigue with his wife. The writer has learnt this news from the *Mahratta* newspaper of Poona.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

17. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January has the following:—

Corruption of the Court amla in Kushtia in the Nadia district.

Everybody knows the high price at which justice is sold under the British Government. The revenue derived from the sale of court-fee stamps is increasing every year. But attention is nevertheless not paid to the convenience of suitors, nor are the salaries of the court-amlas enhanced. As a result, complaints of inconvenience and corruption are heard from almost every place. In this connection, the attention of the authorities is invited to the following complaint of a Kushtia correspondent. It is strange that the exactions said by the correspondent to prevail in the Kushtia Civil Court have not yet attracted the notice of the local authorities. It is to be hoped that they will no longer delay an enquiry into the correspondent's complaints.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

The correspondent says that in Civil Courts it is impossible to get any work done without the payment of some illegal gratification, as the entire establishment of such courts, from the highest amla to the lowest peon, is corrupt. The rates of illegal gratification which are levied in the Kushtia Court are as follows:—

Peon for service of summons on defendant	...	...	4 annas.
Peon for service of subpoena on witness	...	...	4 "
Peon for execution of warrant (if the person against whom the warrant has been issued can be arrested)	...	...	1 rupee.
Ditto ditto ditto (otherwise)	...	...	4 annas.
Peon for service of proclamation on witness and for attachment of witness's property	...	...	4 "
Peon for execution of decree	...	...	8 "
Peon for attachment of movable or immovable property in execution of a decree and for service of proclamation of sale	...	...	1 rupee.
Peon for making an affidavit	...	...	2 annas.
Amla for supplying any information	...	...	4 "

These items of illegal gratification have the sanction of time and usage. The Nazirs of the Civil Courts compel the party in whose interest they have to go to the mufassal to deposit in Court their travelling allowance at the rate of eight annas per mile, though the Civil Service Regulations lay down the rate of allowance at only two annas per mile where there is no railway, and intermediate class fare where a journey can be made by rail. But not content with this, the Nazirs exact from the party all the actual travelling expenses over again and some reward for their troubles, the rate of which depends on the nature of the work. Every Nazir when visiting the mufassal is accompanied by four peons, every one of whom has to be paid one rupee by the party. Over and above all this, the party has to supply the Nazir Babu and his peons with food. The travelling allowance which is deposited in Court, if paid in the first instance by the plaintiff, has ultimately to be borne by the defendant if the suit is decreed, and he has to pay it not at the rate laid down in the Civil Service Regulations, but at the rate at which it was paid into Court by the plaintiff. This is quite unjustifiable. But the Court takes no notice of it. The truth of the above allegations can be easily proved by enquiry among those who are frequently engaged in litigation.

The correspondent also says that for about a week, court-fee stamps of the value of one, four and eight annas have not been available in Kushtia, and the vendors are procuring such stamps from Goalundo or other places and are selling them, with the help of pleaders' muharrirs, at 2 to 3, 6 to 8 and 10 to 12 annas each, respectively. No redress is obtained by drawing to the matter the attention of the judicial officers.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

18. A correspondent of the same paper writes from Jalpaiguri to say that though, contrary to practice, the Settlement Officer of the place, Maulvi Wajuddin Ahmmad, engaged the services of Amins from the 1st instead of the 15th November last year, he sanctioned their pay only from the 10th November, the date on which they were ordered to start for the mufassal. It is difficult to see why he made the selected Amins join his office on the 1st and made them work there regularly from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. till the 9th if he had no intention of paying them for those nine days, and why he rejected some experienced candidates who for unavoidable causes could not join on the 1st November. The Maulvi every year employs an old Amin, with defective eyesight, on Rs. 50 a month, and sends two other experienced Amins as his Assistants. Why is the Maulvi so partial to this man? Again, though the budget makes provision for the employment of Amins for seven months every year, this Settlement Officer dispenses with the services of some of the Amins on the 1st April, thereby putting the men whose services are dispensed with to great loss, as they fail to procure service elsewhere so late in the season. But the services of the Musalman Amins are never dispensed with in this manner.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 31st, 1903.

19. Referring to the Khargpur case in which a Traffic Superintendent insulted one Jasvant Gopal, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 31st January observes that in the Civil Court the Traffic Superintendent confessed his crime. The Criminal Court of the first instance and the Calcutta High Court which dismissed the case, as well as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who declined to interfere with the order of the Court, ought to understand that by so doing they have brought disgrace upon the British Courts of justice in India.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 31st, 1903

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 31st January expresses the same opinion of the Kekragul tea-garden case as is given in the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* newspaper. (See paragraph 14.)

(d)—Education.

PRATINIDHI
Jan. 24th, 1903.

21. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 24th January says that more than two years ago the Comilla District Board founded two scholarships for pandits in the district, and the next year another scholarship was founded for pandits in the Brahmanbaria subdivision only. The term of the first two

Distribution of some scholarships in the Comilla district.

scholarships expired in the month of *Chaitra* last. But without any intimation to the public the Education Committee has recently granted them to their last holders. This was, on this account, an infringement of the rules of the Board and an injustice done to the pandits of the district. Men like Pandit Chandra Mohan Kavya Vinod, who spend their time and sacrifice their personal interest in the cause of Sanskrit learning, should have been consulted before the distribution of the scholarships was made.

Again, the scholarship for the Brahmanbaria subdivision was not granted to any one, and no public notice was issued about it till the other day, when it was silently granted to Pandit Prasanna Kumar Nyayaratna. Will the Deputy Inspector of Schools at Comilla explain the cause of these irregularities?

22. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 28th January says that the monthly aid of Rs. 2 which the Backergunge District Board has sanctioned for the Dhabri Upper Primary School within the Perozpur subdivision does not regularly reach it. The management of the school, which is very poor, is greatly inconvenienced by this.

KASIPUR
NIVASI,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th January hopes that the Bengal Government will, like the Governments of Bombay, Madras and Allahabad, ask the opinion of the Senate of the Calcutta University on the report of the Universities Commission. The writer is glad that, although disregarded by the Government of India, the dignity of the Senates of the Bombay, Madras and Allahabad Universities has been upheld in this matter by their respective local Governments.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

24. The same paper says that a teacher while acting as a guard in the last minor examination in Chittagong town, is alleged to have supplied a few examinees under his charge, of whom his brother was one, with written answers to the questions. Some of the boys are also said to have admitted this before the President of the Board of Examiners. The story, if true, must be a shame to the Education Department.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,

25. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th January says that the student community of Bengal would have been more pleased with Lord Curzon if instead of giving them feasts on the occasion of the Emperor's Coronation celebration, His Excellency had ordered the B. A. examination of the Calcutta University to be made easy in this year of rejoicing, and thereby enabled a large number of students, who failed at the stiff examinations of the last few years, to get through and enter the world. There is time yet, and His Excellency should consider whether he can show this favour to the student community.

JYOTI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

26. The same paper is glad that the Bengal Government has invited the opinions of some notable private individuals on the recommendations of the Universities Commission, and suggests that it should also consult the more notable of the public bodies. The writer, however, regrets that the Bengal Government has not invited the Senate of the Calcutta University to express its opinion on the recommendations. It is not easy to see the cause of this omission. The Bombay Government has obtained the views of the Bombay Senate.

JYOTI,

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes as follows:—

The new scheme of vernacular education. It is not possible for man to see where the muddle created in the lower education of the province will end. When the authorities raised a cry of reform in all directions, it was suspected that the cry was like the mountain in labour. And the mountain has, at last, really brought forth only a mouse. We shall first attempt to show what harmony exists between the new scheme of vernacular education propounded by the Director of Public Instruction and his Assistants, and the manner in which that scheme is being carried into effect.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

In the first and second juvenile classes the boys will only draw lines and learn various subjects empirically, but they will read no books. They will

commence reading in the third year, and the text-book appointed for them is the *Barnabodhak*. Formerly boys used to finish the three parts of the *Barna Parichaya* within the first three years. But now the reading of only one book in the third year will be considered enough for them. The result will undoubtedly be a great deterioration in the boys' knowledge of language, spelling and pronunciation.

In Standard I, boys will have to learn the first four simple rules of arithmetic and *jamabandi*, *kathakali*, *serkasha*, *mankasha*, &c., on the *subhankari* method; and in Standard II they will have to master the compound rules and the remainder of *subhankari*. Not only will this be too heavy a task for tender boys, but to master Subhankar's rules in Standard I without knowing anything of the compound rules of arithmetic will be simply impossible for boys of this standard.

Both the text-books and subjects under the new scheme are more numerous than before. And there is not the least doubt that this increase in the number of subjects and text-books will serve to weaken, instead of strengthening, the boys' intellects.

Formerly, boys in Middle English schools used to read English for six years and even then the complaint was frequently heard that they were deficient in English. In their anxiety to improve the boys' knowledge of English, the authorities thought it right to curtail the period for which English was read in these schools and reduced it to three years! It is only after repeated protest that the period has been fixed at four years.

Just before the new scheme came into operation, boys used to read Lethbridge's selections or some similar book in the fourth class. Before that they had to read much harder books in that class. But under the new scheme, which professes to aim at improving the boys' knowledge of English, they will read Longman's Primer No. I! The book contains the alphabet and teaches the spelling of simple words such as $C + A + T = \text{Cat}$, $R + A + M = \text{Ram}$. Will not this be enough to improve the boys' knowledge of English? In the third class boys will read Longman's Primer No. II. The subject matter of these two books taken together will not exceed what Peary Churn Sircar's First Book of reading teaches in twenty or twenty five pages. Thus when going to be promoted to the second class of a Middle English school, the boys' knowledge of English will not extend beyond a third of the First Book of Reading! This will lighten the burden of the boys, but will not improve their knowledge of English.

Boys who, before the new scheme came into operation, finished the Second Book of Reading or some similar book in the fifth class (Standard II) will have to recommence from Longman's Primer No. I in the fourth class or Standard III. On the other hand, boys who know nothing of drawing will have to commence the subject with the Art School Drawing Book, Parts III and IV, and will have to pass an examination in free-hand drawing. What a nice arrangement!

Though the teaching of English in the Middle English Schools has been reduced to this condition, yet none but better teachers than those now employed will be allowed to teach the subject. Teachers who now teach English, no matter how old they are, will have to pass a fiery ordeal before they are allowed to continue as such teachers.

If the carrying out of such a scheme of vernacular education be called educational reform, woe to education, woe to the boys who receive education, and woe to Bengal where education under such a scheme is imparted. But if by reform is meant annihilation or abolition of education, then it is needless to point out defects in the new scheme. However that be, Mr. Pedler's name will be written in indelible characters in the educational history of the country.

A large number of vernacular text-books have recently been issued by Messrs. Macmillan and Company. One of these is the Historical Reader in Bengali. The book gives the history of Bengal in the shape of popular stories. Its scope is so wide that boys will be able to understand or remember nothing of history from this book, while they will be able to write the history of a thousand years in a line or two.

The book will teach them that "the Greeks, who came to this country with Alexander, stayed for some time in Northern India and spread education

and enlightenment among its residents." They will also learn something about "Kulinism," "the arrival of Brahmans in Bengal," &c., and may also conclude from the latter heading that before the "arrival" there were no Brahmans in Bengal. The boys will derive from this book very strange notions about the "Emperors of Delhi" and the "loss of the independence of Orissa," and learn some new spellings like "ভাগিরথী" and "ব্রহ্মী সভা". Praised be Mr. Pedler!

28. The same paper says that Mr. Luson, Chairman of the Midnapore District Board, has decided to abolish the posts of Inspecting Pandits in that district, in disregard of the advice of the Deputy Inspector of Schools and before receiving from the Government any reply to the letter which has been addressed to it on the subject. The Chairman's decision has created the greatest uneasiness among the Inspecting Pandits who do not know how to earn their livelihood after dismissal. A gratuity has been proposed to be given to them, but only on the hard condition that during the months of January, February and March they must tour about with the newly appointed Sub-Inspectors, teaching the latter their duties. But most of the Inspecting Pandits, who get very poor remuneration, will find it impossible to tour about with Sub-Inspectors in this cold season, and will, therefore, fail to earn the gratuity.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

29. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th January says that within the last three weeks, 62 people have died of cholera in the Bamanpukur and two or three neighbouring villages under the Khandaghosh thana in the Burdwan district. These people practically received no medical treatment. The villagers petitioned the District Magistrate for a doctor, but 200 cholera-pills only have been sent to them instead of a doctor.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Jan. 27th, 1903.

30. The *Manbhum* [Manbhum] of the 27th January says that great oppression is committed by the paiks under the ijardar of the Manbhum Municipal hat in connection with the realisation of *tolas* (charges made upon those who sell articles in a bazaar). *Tolas* are realised on all articles, however trifling. Owing to this oppression very few people come to sell articles in the hat. This causes great inconvenience to the neighbouring villagers. The attention of the authorities of the hat is drawn to the matter.

MANBHUM,
Jan. 27th, 1903.

31. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 28th January says that seeing that natives were a pest in the Calcutta Municipality, that body was reconstituted entirely with white men. Why, then, are serious irregularities still noticed in its working? On the 23rd January last the pump at Jagannath Ghat for raising unfiltered water from the Hooghly did not work, and the whole town was without a drop of unfiltered water for full twenty-four hours. It is said that the Viceroy has asked Mr. Greer to make an enquiry into this irregularity. But who is to make up the loss the rate-payers suffered by the stoppage?

RANGALAYA,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

Complaints are frequently heard that the food inspectors of the municipality systematically levy blackmail from shop-keepers and stall-keepers in bazaars. Any shop-keeper who objects to such blackmailing has his goods pronounced unwholesome and unfit for human consumption. The inspectors also owe heavy debts to shop-keepers in the bazaar.

32. The same paper draws attention to the mismanagement which prevails in the Hooghly Road Cess Office and says that this management, especially that in respect of the service of notices, proves to be the ruin of many people.

RANGALAYA.

Complaints against the Hooghly
Road Cess office and District
Board.

The system followed by the Hooghly District Board in giving grants in aid of the excavation of tanks and the construction of roads does not in the least benefit people who have no influential friends in the Board to support their applications. The Board's supervision of roads and of repairs executed by contractors is of a most perfunctory character.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

33. A correspondence published in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January says that on the 1st December last the Chairman of the Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district had to appear in the Alipur Civil Court in a case against the Municipality. In Alipur he submitted a bill for the realisation of Rs. 16-11 as his travelling and diet charges. Again, on the 19th December following, he realised from the Municipal treasury Rs. 3-1-6 on the same ground. The Municipal Commissioners have petitioned the Government to remove him from the Municipal Board on the ground of his having practised this deception. In the bill which he submitted to the Alipur Court the Chairman said that he had travelled part of the way in a second-class railway carriage, and in a hackney carriage from the Dhakuria railway station to Alipur. In the bill on which he drew money from the Municipal treasury he stated that he had travelled in an intermediate class railway carriage up to the Beliaghata station, in a tram-car from Beliaghata to Dharamtala and in a *ticca ghari* from Dharamtala to Alipur.

KHULNA,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

34. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 29th January says that sometime ago twenty tubs were collected in the Khulna police-station for sprinkling water therefrom on the occurrence of fires within the town. But these tubs were nowhere to be found when the other day a fire actually broke out on the southern side of the Jessore Road. On the 19th January last there was a meeting of the local Municipal Commissioners, and the day's business was to consider the Municipal Vice-Chairman's list of reassessed rates. In this list the rates of only three persons were reduced, the Vice-Chairman himself being one of them, but in most cases the rates were enhanced. The meeting decided that the Municipality should hear any objections that might be made by the rate-payers to the enhancements of their rates, but it made no arrangement for considering the reduction of the rates of the Vice-Chairman and two other people.

Last year the Municipality allotted Rs. 3,200 in its budget for repair of roads, and yet the roads were in a bad condition throughout the year. It is therefore a matter of wonder that this year the Municipality has sanctioned Rs. 2,000 only for the same purpose, whilst it has allotted Rs. 500 for propitiating the Sanitary Commissioner by rebuilding the public latrine on the Westmacott Road.

Sometime ago there was a rumour that when the Municipal Chairman incumbent would take leave Babu Tara Prasanna Acharya, Senior Deputy Magistrate, would officiate in his place. Be this rumour true or not, the Commissioners should remember that before the appointment of the present Chairman the District Magistrate said: "He should be nominated by his name and not by his designation," and thus indicated his dislike for the appointment of a local official. The rate-payers also do not like that an official should be Chairman of their Municipality.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903

35. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January complains that the Calcutta Municipality's practice of extinguishing the gas lamps in the northern quarter of the town before 4 A. M. encourages *oudmashes* to commit oppressions on women who go to bathe in the Hooghly before daybreak, and that these oppressions are becoming more frequent. The editor asks the Municipal authorities to keep the lights in the northern quarter burning till 5-30 A.M.

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 2nd, 1903.

36. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd February says that Major Ross and other eminent European doctors have ascertained that though impure water, unwholesome food, bad drainage and stagnant pools full of decomposed vegetable matter are causes of malaria, not one of them is its principal cause. Malarial poison, according to them, is generated first in the human body and is thence propagated to other human subjects through the agency of the species of mosquito called the *anophele*. They also hold that malaria can be checked only by the extirpation of this mosquito, and for this purpose they suggest (1) the destruction of the nests of the mosquito by fire, (2) the filling up of all tanks, ponds and pools where the *anophele* breeds, (3) the disinfection of such stagnant water with phenyle or some other strong

substance, or (4) the breeding in malaria-stricken places of some animal which is a natural enemy of the mosquito.

The adoption of the first remedy cannot be effectual for the simple reason that no sooner will a nest of mosquitoes be set on fire than the whole body of mosquitoes residing in it, except perhaps a few, will fly away and thereby help to spread the malarial poison wider and wider. It will be impossible to kill all the mosquitoes living in a place by this means. The adoption of the second and third means is not possible. The filling up of all reservoirs of stagnant water will completely cut off the people's water-supply. The disinfection of such reservoirs with strong disinfectants will be equally objectionable because water so disinfected will be useless to man. The fourth is the only remedy whose adoption is possible, if such a remedy can be found and if it does not injure man. Such a remedy is found in the fish. Fish is a natural enemy of the mosquito, but is useful to man. It eats up young mosquitoes as soon as they are bred in reservoirs of stagnant water, which are the natural breeding places of mosquitoes. There was a time when the rich people of the country considered it a religious merit to spend some of their money on the excavation and re-excavation of tanks. And such reservoirs not only supplied the people with an abundant supply of fresh water, but also with an abundant supply of fish, a principal article of food in this country. But times changed, and with it there also came a change in the sentiments and ideas of the rich people, who no longer consider it an act of piety to spend money on the excavation of tanks for the benefit of their fellow-creatures. But if enlightened and highly educated Bengalis are averse to listening to any talk about religion, they should know that the excavation of tanks is a duty which has been imposed upon them by the ordinary principles of utility. Tanks benefit the fellow-creatures of the excavator in the following ways:—

- (1) They check diseases which are the effect of drinking impure water.
- (2) They help agricultural operations.
- (3) They supply the people with an abundant quantity of fish, which is wholesome food for man, and thereby to a great extent check diseases which are the effect of eating insufficient or unwholesome food.
- (4) They will help, if the modern theory about the origin and propagation of malarial poison be correct, to check malaria in the country.

37. The *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 4th February draws attention to the miserable condition of the burning ghat in Basirhat in the 24-Parganas district, and asks the local municipality to spend some money at least in raising the level of the ghat.

BASIRHAT
SUHRID,
Feb. 4th, 1903.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

38. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd February says that there is a widespread rumour that through the mediation of Mr. Lusson, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, the longstanding disputes between Messrs. Watson & Co. and their tenants will soon be brought to an end. May the rumour be true!

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Feb. 2nd, 1903.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

39. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th January says that a great thing would have been done if the money which was realised for the celebration of the coronation festivities had been spent in removing water scarcity in the Mymensingh district. If the District Board bestirs itself at this time of the year to remove this scarcity, many poor people may be prevented from being untimely carried away by diseases created by the drinking of unwholesome water.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 27th, 1903.

The bamboo bridge over the road between the Sambhuganj and Durgapur villages, and near the Sidhal *bil* north of the Syamganj village is in a very bad condition. Carts cannot pass over it. This causes great inconvenience to female passengers travelling in carts. During the rains water passes with great force under the bridge. Besides these the road is the shortest one between the Mymensingh town and the villages on the other side of the bridge. Under such circumstances, the bridge should be made *pukka*. The other *kutchha* bridges over the road up to the Ilaspur village should also be made *pukka*. This will greatly improve the thoroughfare and at the same time save the money which the District Board has annually to spend on them.

The two bridges over the road which passes through the Durgapur and Narayandahar villages, and situate over Lukshariar khal and at the west of the Narayandahar bazar are unusually high. These bridges are constructed every year with bamboos. At present their condition is extremely bad. Such big holes have been formed in them that passengers run the risk of having their feet buried therein. These bridges should be strongly built with wood.

The coolies who are repairing the Local Board's road between the Narayandahar and Durgapur villages say that after repair it will be lower than what it had been before it was washed away last year. But it should be made as high as it was before. The Kamalabil and the Dayakhali bridges over it require speedy repair.

A temporary bridge should be constructed over the Netrokona Road at the point where it meets the Tupikhali river.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903

40. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January has learnt from a number of trustworthy correspondents that on the

A complaint against a *serang*. 23rd January last the Kaliganj service steamer made an unusually long delay at the Nagarbari station in taking about 100 bales of jute. The *serang* first refused to take this cargo, but consented after a private talk with the clerk of the station. The steamer which was to reach Goalando at 3-38 P. M. remained at Nagarbari up to 4 P. M. This caused great hardship to her passengers. Again, those passengers who expostulated with the *serang* on the taking of the bales, received most shameful treatment and replies from him. A Eurasian Inspector, who was on board the steamer, said that he had no hand in the matter. The conduct of *serangs* has become seriously troublesome nowadays.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January complains that two or three carriages which are attached next to the engine in the train which arrives at Sealdah from

A railway complaint. Barrackpore at 10 A.M. on week days are generally found to be in a dirty condition. This causes great inconvenience to the large number of students and clerks who travel by this train, which is the last of the office trains to arrive at Sealdah.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 31st, 1903.

42. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st January cannot approve of the

The proposed Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway. Government's proposal to construct the portion of the proposed Ranaghat-Murshidabad railway line lying between Ranaghat and Krishnagar direct between those two places without making it pass through Santipore. Government should consider the following matters before finally deciding on the alignment of this line :—

(1) In the Nadia district, Santipore is a most populous town and is surrounded by populous villages like Kulna, Guptipara, Malipota, Belgaria, Baganchra, Govindapur and Haripur.

(2) The town is a place of Hindu pilgrimage and is every year visited by a very large number of pilgrims.

(3) The residents of the town have frequently to come to Krishnagar to transact business in the Krishnagar law courts.

(4) The town was famous for its trade under the East India Company, and is still the chief trade centre of the district.

(5) When a railway was proposed in Sir Richard Temple's time between Ranaghat and Krishnagar, the alignment was laid through Santipore and

three lakhs of rupees were spent in constructing the necessary earthwork between Ranaghat and Santipore. The earthwork still exists and will effect a saving in expenditure if utilised for the purposes of the railway.

(6) The memorial which has been submitted to the Government of India on the subject by the people of Santipore has been signed by such influential merchants as Sir Allan Arthur and Babu Sita Nath Rai, and should therefore receive favourable consideration at the Government's hands.

(7) The fact that Mr. Monro, who is thoroughly acquainted with the district, has also addressed the Government on the subject requesting it to take the alignment by Santipore is sufficient proof that the diversion is really needed.

43. Referring to the *Englishman* newspaper's praise of the East Indian Railway authorities for their arrangements on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar and its proposal about rewarding the officer who was in charge of those

The railway arrangement on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar.

arrangements with a medal, the same paper sarcastically observes that if the putting in of first class passengers in intermediate class carriages, if the packing of carriages with too many passengers, and if the mismanagement which prevailed at the Delhi station where passengers were put to the greatest difficulty in finding out their luggage be considered to have been good arrangements, then the railway authorities certainly deserve praise and a reward.

44. The *Prati-dasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd February says that tickets for the new stations between Gidabdaha and Dhubri on the Katihar-Dhubri railway line are not available

A railway complaint.

at Sealdah and other stations, nor can the booking clerks at the latter stations be induced to issue tickets for the former on blank cards. Again, the booking clerks at the new stations do not issue tickets on blank cards without exacting a blackmail of two to eight annas from each passenger. The attention of the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities is invited to these matters.

45. The same paper contains the following in English:—

The tramway conductors in Calcutta.

We notice in the correspondence columns of the *Indian Mirror* a letter from the Managing Agent to the Calcutta Tramways Company telling us that the information of the *Mirror* that drivers of the tramcar are paid by the trip is not correct. These men receive a monthly salary and have not to work more than eight hours a day. So far as the driver is concerned, the people are supplied with the right information. But we want to know how tram-conductors are paid. We think the *Indian Mirror* has heard of the system of paying the conductor and spoken of it as that of paying the driver. Nowadays every man travelling by the car makes it a point of thinking if he will be able to get down with a safe neck.

The public therefore has a right to ask the Tramway authorities to treat their servants in a way that will help them in being all vigilance and activity while running the cars. We have watched many a conductor sleeping over his bag early in the morning while the car is in full speed. He has to work, we hear, from early morning till midnight. In view of the recurring accidents, it is desirable that the conductors also should be relieved of this strain and enabled to be ever on the alert for giving necessary instructions to the driver, who cannot keep his eyes on all sides and regulate the motion of the car accordingly. We dwelt at length in a previous issue of our paper on the grievances of the overworked conductors, many of whom could not bear the strain and fell seriously ill.

These men, we hear, have to begin work when night scarcely fades into day, and cannot be free till they have taken the cars to the depot. We hope the Managing Agent will see his way to lessen the miseries of a conductor's life. Humanity as well as a regard for public safety requires that these overworked wretches should be treated like human beings having only a limited capacity for work.

(h)—General.

46. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th January says that the transfer of the Chittagong Division from Bengal to Assam may remove some inconvenience now experienced by a few European tea-planters and merchants, but it

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 31st, 1903.

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 2nd, 1903.

PRATIVASI,

JYOTI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

will cut off the millions of residents of the Division from the advanced society of Bengal in which they have been brought up as regards their education, morality, religious aspirations, and everything else, and send them back to the backward society of Assam. But the writer is sorry that the people themselves have not yet realised their danger and are still keeping silent.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Feb. 2nd, 1903.

47. A correspondent of the *Midini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd February says that every winter guns are fired on three or four successive days from the ramparts of the Chingrikhali Fort near Diamand Harbour, and the people of about 50 villages are obliged to live on those days beyond a line fixed by the Government.

This year cholera is raging in nearly 14 of the villages within the line. In this state of things the artillery practice should be postponed till the epidemic stops.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January says that the harassment of Tatyasaheb Holkar is not yet at an end. He was charged by the Indore police with the murder of a Brahman, but was acquitted by the Sadar Court. It is now heard that an appeal has been preferred against him in the Indore Council. When the application for the admission of the appeal was made, all the members of the Council, except one, were absent in Delhi. Yet the single member who was present in Indore admitted the appeal and issued a warrant against the defendant. The unfortunate man has, accordingly, been again arrested and lodged in *hajat*. The proceedings of the Indore officials have really astounded the writer, and one fails to see why the Government of India is not interfering.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Jan. 27th, 1902.

49. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th January is sorry not to find the names of many deserving persons, and among them that of Babu Jagadbandhu Mittra, Vice-Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality, in the list of New Year's Day honours. The blame of such omissions is to be laid entirely at the door of local officials, who do not keep touch with the people and have, therefore, to depend entirely upon others for the selection of persons deserving honours.

As for Jagadbandhu Babu, he has served the Burdwan Municipality with distinction for more than a quarter of a century and has also long served as an Honorary Magistrate. His service to the Municipality has often been rendered at personal loss.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

50. Referring to the conferring of titles on three newspaper editors on the last New Year's Day, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th January says that those people with whom sense of duty is a stern reality regard such titles more as drawbacks in the path of duty than as useful decorations. The newspaper editor's mission is to secure purity in the administration by criticising the actions of the Government. Fairly, therefore, he has no right to receive honours at the hands of the Government. As to the three editors referred to, people know them too well to fear that any harm can result from their having received titles from it.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

51. The same paper writes as follows:—

Expenses in connection with the Delhi Darbar and Coronation festivities.

A few months ago Lord Curzon said that the Delhi Darbar would not cost more than thirty or thirty-five thousand rupees. Now that the Darbar is over, His Excellency should publish an account of its expenses, because if people are assured that he has been able to carry out such a big affair with such a small amount of money, their respect for him will greatly increase. We also want to know how many Indians and how many foreigners were invited to the Darbar and what were the amounts of expenditure incurred by the Government on them respectively. Were all the expenses of those who came from Europe and America to see the Darbar borne by the Government? What was the actual amount of money spent by

it on this head? It is said that the Native Princes had to come and stay in Delhi at their own expense and that some of them had to incur debts for the purpose. But had this action of the latter His Excellency's approval? If not, we shall be highly obliged to His Excellency if he institutes an enquiry into the matter and publishes its results for the enlightenment of the public. In many places in the mufassal the collection of subscriptions for the Coronation festivities was attended with oppression. We pray to His Excellency to call for the accounts of the subscriptions realised and the ways in which they were spent in the mufassal, and enquire whether oppression was really committed or not.

52. Referring to the feeding of the poor on the occasion of the celebration of the Coronation festivities in Calcutta, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th January writes as follows:—

The feeding of the poor in Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 29th, 1903.

About 9 in the morning forty or forty-five thousand poor gathered on the maidan. First of all, the sight of the European soldiers quartered at the place frightened them. The Indian poor are never amenable to order; it is their nature to make *golmal*. But it was the first time on the maidan that they were beaten even to bleeding for making *golmal*. Before 12 o'clock they began to enter the enclosure. At one o'clock the entrance was closed. Not more than 15 or 20 thousand people entered. The rest went away for fear of the soldiers, who showed no economy in the use of kicks and boxes among them. It was announced that the feeding would begin at 2 P.M. But 2 P.M. passed away and yet the fasting poor got nothing to eat. Poor boys and girls could no longer bear the pangs of hunger and began to clamour. At 3 P.M. when the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor arrived, food was given to them. But owing to mismanagement many of them did not get it in sufficient quantities. Only the strong among the poor got betels and chercots. Every poor man was to have received a four-anna piece after the meal. But the greater part of the poor could not reach the door where they were to receive it. They received a good beating instead and went away.

The conduct of some of the soldiers was most despicable. One of them wrested a number of birds from a poor man. It is also said that many of them snatched off the sticks and umbrellas of many poor men. The balloon which was to have ascended early in the afternoon for the entertainment of the poor, ascended at 6-30 P. M., and the pole with which it was fastened to the ground was raised in the air and two people were so dangerously struck by it that they are lying in a precarious condition.

53. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes as follows:—

Sorrow in place of joy.

The Coronation Darbar has caused regret to many in the midst of rejoicing. Many people are sorry because they did not get the respect and attention they had hoped for. Others are sorry because they did not get return visits from the Viceroy, although they are entitled to such visits on ordinary occasions. Others, again, are sorry because they were ill-treated by the officers. Rajas and Maharajas, who are not ruling chiefs, are sorry because they were allowed to take no part in the elephant procession. Some, again, who had been privileged to attend the Coronation ceremony in England were disappointed to find the humble place assigned to them in Delhi and were sorry at the reception they got. People who were not themselves invited to Delhi but went there as the representatives of their father or somebody else felt equal regret. But it is not possible for these people to give expression to their disappointments.

We, too, are sorry. Because the Darbar, which has been the cause of so much expense and such deep and widespread regret, has brought us no gain. The Viceroy, acting on behalf of the Emperor, shewed no favour to the subject people and conferred no new privilege upon them. The ruling chiefs were excused a few years' interest on the famine loan, but the raiyats of the British Government did not get even a year's remission of rent. Can fireworks hide spectacles of misery from view? And can sweet speeches deafen the hearer to cries of sorrow?

The Delhi festivities have been reproduced on a smaller scale in every village in India, where the villagers have been obliged to feed school-boys and the poor and to hold illuminations. But does not sorrow lurk behind all

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

this rejoicing? Does all this rejoicing really mean prosperity? Lord Curzon in an intelligent and far-sighted man. Let him but look into the hearts of the Indian people and he will see that the Indian's joy has been turned into sorrow. The last of the festivities were held in Calcutta and the writer saw these, too, overshadowed by the same gloom. Will only Lord Curzon, the Emperor's representative, not see this?

HITAVADI,
Jan. 30th, 1903.

54. The same paper says that the people of Burdwan are pained to see the letters of invitation to the installation of the Maharaja of Burdwan issued in the name of Raja Ban Behari Kapur and not in that of the Dowager Maharani. Such a departure from the usual practice was never before made, and one may well ask what led to it on the present occasion. A distinction is also seen in the letter between the form of addressing Europeans and that of addressing native gentlemen.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 31st, 1903.

55. Referring to what has appeared in the *Bengalee* newspaper against the presentation of an address to the Viceroy by the representatives of the Indian press in Delhi, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 31st January says that the address contained nothing more than an expression of thanks to His Excellency for his visit to the native press camp, expressions of loyalty to the Emperor, and an expression of thanks to Mr. J. N. Gupta as the worthy representative of the host, the Government. Babu Surendranath Banerji, the editor of the *Bengalee*, will not surely object to the expressions of loyalty to His Majesty, and to the expressions of thanks to His Excellency and Mr. J. N. Gupta. They were nothing more than what was required by the time-honoured rules of hospitality. In the Press Camp there were some who objected to the mention of the name of Mr. J. N. Gupta in the address, but there was none who objected to the address itself. The opinion expressed by Surendra Babu on the 30th January last on a letter from Babu Kali Prasanna Kavya-visarad questioning the soundness of the arguments of the *Bengalee* on the subject, is very astonishing. Men may have had objections to the holding of the Darbar, but that is no reason why they should not have presented an address to the Viceroy when he came to visit them. Again, the argument that as the representatives of the Anglo-Indian press did not present an address to His Excellency, the representatives of the Indian press, too, should not have presented one, is too flimsy to carry weight.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 7th February, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.